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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development

Ninth meeting
Geneva, 3 and 4 April 2014
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 3 April 2014*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Implementing the third phase of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development:
   (a) Member States' progress and 2013–2014 champions;
   (b) Education for sustainable development competences in technical and vocational education and training;
   (c) Outcomes of the electronic working groups under the Strategy;

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website (http://www.unece.org/env/esd.html), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (esd@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates must obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map available at: http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.

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(d) Mandatory national implementation reporting in 2014.

3. Getting ready for the future — continuing implementation after the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development:

(a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2016;

(b) Contribution to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in 2014.

4. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for 2014–2015.

5. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes.

6. Calendar of meetings and other business.

7. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Thursday, 3 April, 10–10.15 a.m.

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development is expected to adopt the agenda of its ninth meeting, as prepared by the secretariat and the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Bureau, and set out in the present document.

2. Implementing the third phase of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

(a) Member States' progress and 2013–2014 champions

Timing: Thursday, 3 April, 10.15 a.m.–1 p.m.

2. The secretariat will give a brief synthesis presentation on the progress made and the experiences of ECE member States in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development. Particular attention will be paid to the priority action areas that were adopted by the Committee at its seventh meeting, as well as member States' plans for implementing education for sustainable development (ESD) on the national level beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014).

3. In preparation of the annual informal country reporting, countries are invited to provide their informal reports to the secretariat before 15 March 2014, responding to the questionnaire included in document ECE/CEP/AC.13/2014/3.

4. Countries will be invited to complement the secretariat's presentation with interventions on outstanding activities and initiatives implemented since the eighth Steering Committee meeting in 2013. This agenda item also provides the opportunity to celebrate ESD champions of the ECE region, and the secretariat will compile a post-session information document on outstanding good practices presented.

(b) Education for sustainable development competences in technical and vocational education and training

Timing: Thursday, 3 April, 3–4 p.m.

5. While the reorientation of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) towards sustainable development has been adopted as a priority action area, countries have reported in 2012 and 2013 that little progress has been made in integrating ESD in a structured way in TVET. The aim under this agenda item will be to address the necessary steps to significantly advance the reorientation of TVET towards sustainable development, and to generate action within the ECE region to this end.

(c) Outcomes of the electronic working groups under the Strategy

Timing: Thursday, 3 April, 4–5 p.m.

6. Following the mandate of the Steering Committee, electronic working sessions have been held on each of the priority action areas, i.e.:[1] (a) to ensure that there is an ESD school plan in every school by 2015; (b) to promote the introduction of ESD into teacher education; and (c) to reorient TVET in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy. For each of the discussion sessions, a chair has been appointed, who will inform the Committee about the discussion outcomes. The Committee will be invited to consider the group's work and to decide on possible further action.

(d) Mandatory national implementation reporting in 2014

Timing: Thursday, 3 April, 5–6 p.m.

7. The Steering Committee will be invited to consider the reporting timeline and process for the third national implementation reporting to be carried out in 2014. Moreover, the slightly revised reporting template will be presented to the Steering Committee. The presentation will be followed by an interactive question and answer session concerning the reporting process. In addition, countries will be invited to discuss the format of the analysis report that will be prepared on the basis of the national implementation reports.

3. Getting ready for the future — continuing implementation after the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

(a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2016

Timing: Friday, 4 April, 10–11.30 a.m.

8. At its eighth meeting, the Steering Committee decided to propose to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy to hold a high-level session of education and environment ministries on ESD as part of the next Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference. At its nineteenth session (Geneva, 22–25 October 2013), the Committee on Environmental Policy decided to hold the next EfE Ministerial Conference in 2016, and welcomed the Steering Committee's proposal to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the Conference. Against this background, the Steering Committee is invited to start the preparation process for the high-

[1] See ECE/CEP/AC.13/2012/2, para. 48.

level meeting. This will also include the discussion of the first draft of the future implementation framework.

(b) Contribution to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in 2014

Timing: Friday, 4 April, 11.30–12.15 a.m.

9. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development will take place in Japan from 10 to 12 November 2014. The Steering Committee will be updated about the preparation process and be invited to discuss the Steering Committee's input to the Conference.

4. Status of the trust fund and resource requirements for 2014–2015

Timing: Friday, 4 April, 12.15–1 p.m.

10. The secretariat will inform the Steering Committee about contributions received since the Committee's last meeting. Since the funding situation of the Strategy for ESD is very tight, and the regional activities under the Strategy are funded exclusively through contributions by member States to the trust fund, advance indications of pledges by States are vital.

5. Strengthening synergies with other organizations and processes

Timing: Friday, 4 April, 3–4 p.m.

11. Delegations, and in particular stakeholders such as international and non-governmental organizations, Regional Environmental Centres and research institutions, may wish to inform the Steering Committee of activities related to the Strategy's implementation currently being carried out or planned at the national and international levels.

6. Calendar of meetings and other business

Timing: Friday, 4 April, 4–4.15 p.m.

12. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss the format and the timing of the tenth Steering Committee meeting, to be held in 2015.

13. The Steering Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose items are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

7. Closure of the meeting

Timing: Friday, 4 April, 4.15–4.30 p.m.

14. Following some concluding remarks, the Chair will officially close the ninth meeting.